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ABSTRACT

In providing its program for education reform, this book uses, as an analogy, the genetic model taken from the Human Genome project. In the first part, "Theoretical Underpinnings," the book explains why a genetic model can be used to improve school systems; describes the critical components of a world-class school system; and details the genetic model, showing how DNA-gene strands, chromosomes, and organisms can be used to conceptualize the fundamental principles, research-based practices, and core areas that form a world-class school district. In the second part, "Implementing the Genetic Model," the book discusses two categories of "chromosomes": (1) the capacity-building chromosomes: leadership, change, and professional development, and (2) the teaching-learning process chromosomes: curriculum, instructional practices, and assessment. The book also contains a number of tables and figures illustrating concepts, models, and action plans; a set of activities that includes worksheets for building a genetic model for educational improvement; a subject index; and a list of 45 references. (References also appear in some of the chapters and appendices.) Appended are 10 guest essays; a framework for professional development; and a process to identify the philosophy and rationale for why curriculum is structured the way it is. (WFA)

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